

## Message Text

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15

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 /032 W

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R 130753Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

SECSTATE WASHDC 1598

UNCLAS SOFIA 1720

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: HARPSICHORDIST VIRGINIA PLEASANTS

REF: A) LONDON 11761; B) SOFIA 1691

1. FIRST THE GOOD NEWS. SOFIACONCERT HAS INFORMED US IN WRITING THEY WILL BE PLEASED TO SCHEDULE A CONCERT FOR MRS. PLEASANTS. AMBASSADOR AUG 12 CALLED ON IVAN IVANOV, ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOFIACONCERT, WHO SAID CONCERT WOULD BE IN THE CHAMBER MUSIC HALL OF BULGARIA HALL. THIS IS SOFIA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS SMALL CONCERT AUDITORIUM.

2. NOW THE BAD NEWS. IVANOV ALSO SAID, BOTH IN WRITING AND ORALLY, THAT HE "FEELS OBLIGED TO REMIND (US) THAT THE HARPSICHORD WE HAVE IS NOT OF VERY GOOD QUALITY." IT IS A RELATIVELY NEW INSTRUMENT, HE SAID, AND HAS BEEN USED IN ORCHESTRA CONCERTS; BUT IT IS DEFINITELY NOT OF SOLO CONCERT QUALITY. AMBASSADOR SAID MRS. PLEASANTS WOULD BE APPRISED OF THIS BUT WOULD NO DOUBT BE GLAD TO DO HER BEST WITH WHAT IS AVAILABLE. HE ACCEPTED THE ENGAGEMENT, SUBJECT TO DETAILS BEING WORKED OUT ON TECHNICAL LEVEL.

3. AND MORE BAD NEWS. THE DAY IVANOV INDICATED FOR CONCERT IS NOV 10, WHICH ACCORDING REF A SEEMED FINE  
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SINCE MRS. PLEASANTS EXPECTED IN ATHENS ONLY NOV 11

AND 12. HOWEVER, WE SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND THERE ARE NO FLIGHTS FROM SOFIA TO ATHENS EITHER THURS NOV 11 OR FRI NOV 12. THE ONLY THING WE COULD DO TO GET HER TO ATHENS NOV 11 WOULD BE TO HAVE HER DRIVEN TO THESSALONIKI IN THE MORNING, FROM WHERE SHE COULD DEPART AT 1435 HOURS BY OA 915 ARRIVING ATHENS 1520 HOURS. WOULD THIS BE ACCEPTABLE TO ATHENS AND TO MRS. PLEASANTS?

4. FINALLY AGAIN SOME GOOD NEWS. LATE AUG 12 AMBAS-SADOR CALLED ON PETUR CHRISTOSKOV, DEPUTY RECTOR OF SOFIA CONSERVATORY. CHRISTOSKOV SAID THEY HAVE A GOOD TIERBACH HARPSICHORD, AND HE SAW NO DIFFICULTY "IN PRINCIPLE" TO MAKING IT AVAILABLE FOR BULGARIA HALL CONCERT AS WELL AS FOR PLANNED SMALL INVITATIONAL CONCERT AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE. HE ALSO THOUGHT MRS. PLEASANTS WOULD BE WELCOME TO MEET MUSICIANS AT CONSERVATORY AND PERHAPS PERFORM THERE NOV 8 OR 9.  
HERZ

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